

Phone 01206 523 528

9 August 2000

Dear Eli,

Very glad to talk with you again, after so many years, and look forward to us meeting up - at Horsmonden, September 10th.

Meanwhile, yes, I'll do all I can to back up the campaign to keep this fair alive. Looking it up in a book, I see the village is mentioned in 1100 as "Horsbundenne" and Horsmonden in 1263, meaning the "pasture of the horsekeepers".

We should be able to find out more about the history but it seems reasonable to claim that this is a "1000 Year Old Horse Fair" and possibly the oldest in England.

And yes, I'm willing to do some phone calls to members of the National Romani Rights Assoc (any numbers you care to give me) and I'm contacting people I knew in Kent and Surrey to rally support (like Jasper Smith, Jasper King, Solly Brown, Fred Bignal, and others).

You might want to talk to Terry Adams, at 01708 739 515. He says he's supporting the campaign and will urge people to come.

Also, supporters of the cause. Donald Kenrick and Thomas Acton are coming, and Daniel Baker.

Then there's the lawyer Rachel Morris, she can possibly advice us on the legal situation.

Do you want us all to meet up outside the village and make a procession, with posters, with you leading with the horses and main banner? If so where? You mentioned August Pitch (?).

Talk to you again soon

PS As I mentioned, Horsmonden Parish Council invited members of the Gypsy Council to a meeting on 20 July. But instead of being willing to talk about, and perhaps resolve, any problems, they simply announced that the fair is to be banned, no horses, no stalls, no trading on the green. Although they did admit it would be perfectly legal for people to come and collect together on the green and, for example, have a picnic there. The police present claimed to have had complaints about the fair but would give no details. They said they had had phone calls, nothing in writing.